



DATE: September 25, 2023

SUBJECT: Puget Sound Regional Committees Update

Executive Board

At its July 27 meeting, the Executive Board:

- **Approved the PSRC Fiscal Year 2024 Indirect Cost Rate.** Indirect costs are incurred for common or joint purposes that cannot be easily identified with a particular final cost objective.
- **Approved contract authority for on-call information technology and GIS-related services.** GIS is software that analyzes and maps data. The total budget for the work is not to exceed \$50,000 through the FY2024-25 biennium ending June 30, 2025.
- **Approved contract authority to purchase cell phone service** not to exceed \$50,000 for three years.
- **Approved contract authority to purchase internet and telephone service** not to exceed \$135,000 over three years.
- **Adopted a routine amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Five agencies submitted seven projects this month for routine amendment into the Regional TIP.
 - King County (Transit): Interim Base Battery Electric Bus Charging Depot
 - Kitsap County: Perry – Stone to Sheridan
 - Marysville: Grove Street Overcrossing
 - Woodinville: SR 202 Widening and Trestle Replacement – Phase B
 - Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Northwest Region:
 - SR 99/SR 516 to S 200th Street – Paving & ADA Compliance
 - I-90/Eastbound East Channel Bridge – Modular Assembly Joints
 - WSDOT Marine Division: Terminal Electrification – Mukilteo – Clinton Route
- **Approved ten project status changes in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).** Requesting status change from “candidate” to “approved”:
 - King County: Eastrail Wilburton Trestle Project
 - Kirkland: 124th Avenue NE Roadway Improvements & NE 124th Street/124th Avenue NE/Totem Lake Project
 - Seattle: 4th Avenue Protected Bike Lane Project
 - Seattle: Northgate to Downtown Transit Improvements Project
 - Shoreline: SR 523 (N/NE 145th St), Aurora Avenue N to I-5, Phase 1 Project
 - Shoreline: SR 523 (N/NE 145th St) & I-5 Interchange Improvements Project



- Sound Transit: Puyallup Station Improvements Project
 - WSDOT: I-5/Northbound Marine View Drive to SR 529 – Corridor & Interchange Improvements Project
 - WSDOT: I-90 at SR 18 Interchange Improvements Project
- Requesting status change from “candidate” to “conditionally approved”:
- WSDOT: SR 9 – 176th Street SE to SR 96 Project
- **Approved allocating remaining FFY 2022 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding.** King County Metro and Skagit Transit requested to allocate 2022 FTA funds to existing projects. These funds were held over from the distribution of PSRC’s FTA Earned Share funds as part of the 2018 project selection process.
 - **Approved certification of King County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs).** The CPPs include 2044 population and employment growth targets to support the 2024 comprehensive plan updates and to implement the VISION 2050 Regional Growth Strategy. The CPPs were updated through King County’s interjurisdictional process and the Growth Management Planning Council, with contributions from the Affordable Housing Committee.
 - **Heard an update about the Equity Advisory Committee (EAC).** Significant progress has been made on regional equity work, including co-creating elements of the Regional Equity Strategy. Resources are or will be available for upcoming comprehensive plan updates including: Equity Tracker, Legacy of Structural Racism Interactive Report, Anti-Displacement Organizations Report, Equitable Engagement Guidance, Equity Planning Resources, and Racial Equity Impact Assessment. The EAC is also charged with co-creating an equity pilot program to distribute approximately \$6 million of PSRC’s 2025-2026 Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds.
 - **Heard an update on two key policy focus areas: safety and climate.** Members heard about PSRC’s Regional Safety Summit held on June 29 bringing together 140 people to discuss transportation safety issues and how to move the region forward to achieving zero fatalities and serious injuries. The summit will help inform the creation of a regional safety plan. Members also heard about action to develop a Climate Change Implementation Plan and an expert review panel that will review PSRC’s 2030 climate analysis.
 - **Learned about Puget Sound data trends.** This annual presentation highlighted regional demographic, climate and transportation trends across the region. Data includes population and housing growth, as well as employment trends, transit and airport use in the region.

The next Executive Board meeting is scheduled for September 28. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the Executive Board.



Transportation Policy Board (TPB)

At its September 14 meeting, the TPB:

- **Recommended a routine amendment to the 2023-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).** Eight agencies submitted ten projects this month for routine amendment into the Regional TIP.
 - Des Moines: S 240th Street Improvements
 - Fife: 62nd Avenue E Multimodal Improvements
 - King County Metro: Trolley Energy Storage System Replacement
 - Kitsap County: Sydney and Pine
 - Lakewood: South Tacoma Way – 88th to North City Limits
 - Lynnwood: Poplar Way Extension Bridge
 - Seattle: Pedestrian Scale Lighting
 - WSDOT Northwest Region: SR 104/NE 195th Street Vicinity – Gabion Wall Replacement
 - WSDOT Olympic Region: SR 302/118th Avenue NW Intersection – Compact Roundabout
 - WSDOT Olympic Region: I-5/Dupont to Lakewood – Shared Use Path
- **Recommended four project status changes in Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).** Requesting status change from “candidate” to “approved”:
 - Seattle: 23rd Avenue Bus Rapid Transit Project
 - Seattle: Rapid Ride Roosevelt (J Line), Eastlake Segment Project
 - WSDOT: SR 9/ Marsh Road to 2nd Street Widening Project
 - WSDOT: SR 304/ Winslow Ferry to Hostmark Street – Safety Improvements Project
- **Recommend approval of a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) project tracking extension and scope change** for Sound Transit’s Seattle to Lakewood Commuter Rail project.
- **Recommended certification of Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs).** The CPPs aligns with the multicounty planning policies, the Regional Growth Strategy in VISION 2050, and achieves several local initiatives pursued by the county and its cities.
- **Recommended approval of non-voting seats on the TPB.** If approved by the Executive Board, the revised structure would be implemented for the 2023 non-voting seat recruitment process in the fall. Proposed changes include:
 - Three non-voting seats representing “community/environment.”
 - Three non-voting seats representing “business/labor.”
 - One non-voting seat to be shared by the four Public Health agencies.



- One non-voting seat for the Equity Advisory Committee.
- **Released project recommendations for Rural Town Centers and Corridors (RTCC) Program and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) for public comment.** The City submitted one TAP application for the *Eastrail – Mountains to Sound Greenway Regional Trails Connection Project* in the amount of \$2.5 million. The project is recommended for full funding. Recommended projects are now available for public comment through October 26, with final action at the Executive Board on October 26.
- **Heard about the Regional Safety Plan draft scope of work.** The Plan is intended to follow a Safe System Approach for equitable and impactful progress on achieving the safety goals across the four-county region.
- **Learned about preparations for the 2024 project selection process.** PSRC has project selection authority for several sources of funds from both FHWA and FTA. Prior to each funding cycle, the policies and procedures for the project selection process are reviewed and updated to reflect regional priorities and requirements and are documented in the *Policy Framework for PSRC's Federal Funds*. The next selection process will be conducted in 2024 for PSRC's 2027-2028 FHWA and FTA funds.

The next TPB meeting is scheduled for October 12. Councilmember Jennifer Robertson represents Bellevue on the TPB.

Growth Management Policy Board

At its September 7 meeting, the Growth Management Policy Board (GMPB):

- **Recommended approval of non-voting seats on the GMPB.** The GMPB recommended that the Executive Board adopt the proposed changes to the composition of non-voting seats for the Growth Management Policy Board. The recommended changes include a permanent seat to be shared by four Public Health Agencies and a seat for the Equity Advisory Committee. Another change includes altering the structure of eight non-voting seats to “up to six” seats. The recommended changes include recruitment on an as-needed basis, rather than three-year staggered terms on a once-a-year schedule. The GMPB recommended the proposed set of changes, with an amendment to maintain distinct categories for business/labor and community/environment. The Executive Board will take final action on the revised structure at its September 28 meeting.
- **Recommended approval of Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies Certification.** The GMPB recommended that the Executive Board certify that Pierce County's countywide planning policies are consistent with the VISION 2050 multicounty planning policies and the Regional Transportation Plan. On May 17, 2022, Pierce



County and its cities adopted and ratified a major update to countywide planning policies. PSRC then reviewed planning policies based on a comparative analysis of other multicounty planning policies and made sure they aligned with the goals of the Regional Growth Strategy. The Executive Board will decide to certify the countywide planning policies for Pierce County at its September 28 meeting.

- **Received a briefing from the Department of Commerce on Climate Grants.** The Department of Commerce provided the GMPB with information about the available state climate planning grants. Commerce briefed the GMPB on the \$30 million available in statewide climate planning grants for the 2023-2025 biennium. Cities and counties are eligible for funding if their planning activities are climate planning related. The current application window closes on October 31, 2023.
- **Received a briefing on Affordable Housing Developer Outreach.** PSRC staff provided an overview of the findings from affordable housing developer outreach and asked for feedback from the GMPB. In 2021, House Bill 1220 amended the Growth Management Act to require local governments to fully document barriers and strategies to address housing needs at all income levels. PSRC developed a questionnaire and conducted focus group interviews of affordable housing developers to focus on the barriers and opportunities to develop affordable housing in communities. Key feedback from participants focused on zoning, mandatory standards, public opposition, and other factors influencing the cost and complexity of developing housing. PSRC will circulate the published document to jurisdictional partners, respondents, and representatives.
- **Received a briefing and an update on the Equity Advisory Committee Report.** The board asked questions and provided feedback on the progress of PSRC staff and the Equity Advisory Committee's (EAC) regional equity work and the Regional Equity Strategy. The Equity Advisory Committee has been working on the Equity Pilot Program. From June to August, the EAC joined staff meetings to implement suggestions shared by the committee and design the Equity Pilot. Soon after, staff will release the pilot program and review the EAC's project recommendations. At the end of the year, the EAC will review the pilot program, discuss what went well, and share recommendations for the next project selection process. In December, the Board will review the EAC's recommendations on how to improve project selection and then adopt the framework in January 2024.
- **Received a briefing from PSRC staff on current data trends.** PSRC staff provided a background report on the latest trends in the Puget Sound region. Trends in Climate show transit boardings in 2023 are 65 percent of pre-pandemic levels, electric vehicle ownership is growing, and people of color use transit at a higher rate. Examining safety data trends, Seattle is one of the "safer" metropolitan regions, but serious injuries and traffic-related deaths are increasing and disproportionately impact people of color. Seventy-seven of the 82 places in the region have had at least one serious or fatal



collision since 2018, and most collisions occur near transit and schools. The report finished with the region's growth trends. PSRC is still growing as a region and housing production is at a 20-year high. Rental costs continue to climb while home prices are slightly down from all-time highs. Wages are above pre-pandemic levels, and unemployment remains steady.

The next GMPB meeting is scheduled for October 5. Mayor Lynne Robinson represents Bellevue on the GMPB.

Economic Development District Board:

At its September 6 meeting, the Economic Development District Board:

- **Discussed PSRC's recommendations to the 2024 Washington State Legislature.** The recommendations included items related to transportation, housing, climate, and economic development. The recommendations are typically very broad, because they reflect a consensus across all PSRC members. By contrast, Bellevue's legislative agendas are typically more specific, enabling Bellevue to weigh in on more bills.

One notable difference between PSRC's and Bellevue's agendas relates to a road-usage charge (RUC), a per-mile state tax authority that could replace Washington's gas tax. PSRC supports developing an equitable RUC; Bellevue City Council does not have a position supporting implementation of an RUC. Instead, Council took a position that if the legislature adopts an RUC, privacy protections, equity, and other factors should be considered.

- **Discussed the Military and Defense Sector Economic Impact Analysis**, which will be facilitated by the South Sound Military & Communities Partnership (SSMCP). This economic analysis will help determine what the state's role could be in growing Washington's defense economy and the impact of the sector on the state's broader economy.
- **Discussed PSRC's Equity Tracker project, a significant undertaking within the Regional Equity Strategy, and received a preview of the tool.** The resource will track progress on equity-related VISION 2050 goals and policies, complement existing PSRC data and equity resources, and enhance PSRC's ability to support members and stakeholders in pursuit of their own equity objectives. The Equity Tracker should be available to the public by the end of the calendar year.
- **Received a staff report, which included updates on:**
 - The Americas Competitiveness Exchange, which was hosted in the Seattle area in May. An impact report has been developed to summarize the program and outcomes and highlight the experiences of delegates.



City of Bellevue

City Manager's Office

- The industrial lands analysis, which is currently being finalized. A full project update will be provided at the December EDD Board meeting.

The next EDD Board meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2023. Councilmember Conrad Lee represents Bellevue on the EDD Board.